Kashmir Issue

558. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAMJI LAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not only Pakistan but South Africa also raked up the Kashmir issue at the Non-Aligncd Summit meet at Durban;

(b) if so, the context and content of their respective move;

(c) India's response and reaction thereto;

(d) whether no prior discussion was held in this meet by the Government of India with the Government of South Africa; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the officers responsible for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Foreign Minister of Pakistan in his statement at the Non-Aligncd Summit in Durban said *inter alia* that "the unresolved issued of Kashmir is a major cause of tension and instability (which) has led to new escalations and dangers"; he also referred to the so-called "right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir". Pakistan has been making such references at earlier NAM Summits and other international fora.

The South African President mentioned the Kashmir issue briefly while referring to areas to tension in various parts of the world during his inaugural address at the Summit and said: "All of us remain concerned that the issue of Jammu & Kashmir should be solved through peaceful negotiations and (NAM) should be willing to lend all the strength we have to the resolution of this matter"

(c) The Prime Minister stated in his address to the NAM Summit that the Shimla Agreement, which both India and Pakistan have ratified, provides an agreed mechanism for resoving these differences amicably between the two countries. The Prime Minister also stated that there is no place for any third party involvement in this process, howsoever well intcntioncd. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is, and will remain, an integral part of India. The real problem there is one of cross-border terrorism.

The Prime Minister also separately raised the matter with the South African President. Subsequently, the Deputy President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, provided some clarifications and expressed regret for the misunderstanding it has caused. India regards the matter as closed,

It may also be noted that in the subsequent statement by the South African President at the 53rd regular session of UN General Assembly, no reference was made to Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) Extensive prior consultations were held with the Government of South Afirca on all NAM-related matters. The Government of South Africa is fully aware of India's position on the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

(e) Does not arise.

Proposal for Signing CTBT

559. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(b) whether objections earlier raised by India have been met; if so, the details thereof; and